



Illinois State Board of Education

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Weekly Message

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State Superintendent

Oct. 10, 2007

Message from State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

The Fordham Institute recently released a study called “The Proficiency Illusion”. The study linked data from the 2003-2006 state assessments conducted in 26 states (including Illinois) to the Northwest Evaluation Association’s Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment, a computerized test used by schools in the studied states. For Illinois, the study analyzed reading and math assessment results for grades 3 through 8 and science results for grades 4 and 7 in an unspecified number of schools where most students took both the ISAT and the MAP.

The study investigated the following three research questions.

1. How consistent are various states’ expectations for proficiency in reading and math?
2. Is there evidence that states’ expectations for proficiency have changed since the enactment of NCLB?
3. How closely are proficiency standards calibrated across grades?

Overall results of this study indicate the following:

- State tests vary greatly in their difficulty;
- Most states have not changed difficulty in recent years;
- Improvements in passing rates on state tests can largely be explained by declines in the difficulty of those tests;
- Mathematics tests are consistently more difficult to pass than reading tests; and
- Eighth-grade tests are consistently more difficult to pass than those in earlier grades.

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The study suggests that there is no common understanding of what “proficiency” means and proficiency levels vary from state to state, from year to year, from subject to subject and from grade level to grade level.

It may be important to note that the Fordham Institute supports some form of national standards and assessments, so it should be no surprise that the results of this study support that concept.

As we move closer toward the reauthorization of NCLB, scrutiny of states’ expectations for student achievement and how that achievement is measured will become more prevalent. We want Illinois standards to be able to withstand national scrutiny and ensure that every child is prepared for postsecondary education and the workforce. The Illinois College and Work Readiness Partnership has afforded us an opportunity to work with Achieve, Inc., a bi-partisan, non-profit organization that has been conducting reviews of standards for almost a decade. During the next few months, Achieve will evaluate the Illinois Learning Standards and the accompanying performance indicators to determine if

they: 1) focus on the most essential material in each grade span for building proficiency; and 2) are rigorous when compared to national benchmarks, including college and work readiness standards. I look forward to sharing these findings with you.

Finally, I would like to remind you that the General Assembly returned to Springfield for the final three days of its fall Veto Session. As I have noted before, it is imperative that the General Assembly pass legislation setting the General State Aid (GSA) Foundation and Special Education Personnel Reimbursement Levels by passing the Budget Implementation Bill (BIMP) prior to November 1.

Beginning with the first GSA payment in November, we will have all the data necessary to make the final GSA calculations. It is our hope that the General Assembly will have passed a new Foundation Level by late October. Regardless of whether the General Assembly acts, we are required to recalculate GSA with the final data.

If the General Assembly does not pass the new Foundation Level in the BIMP during the veto session, then *starting in November, 726 districts/lab schools/safe schools will receive less GSA* than they are currently receiving.

In addition, the Senate has passed a Capital Construction Bill that would direct nearly \$2 billion to school construction and maintenance over the next three years, including \$150 million to immediately fund the 24 districts initially entitled to receive funds in FY 2002. The Senate has also passed a \$260 million increase for General State Aid which, with House concurrence, would bring the Foundation level to \$5,900. The Senate also included an additional \$44 million for Early Childhood Education, which would bring the FY 2008 total increase to \$69 million.

I strongly urge you to reach out to your state legislators and express your concerns.

Have a great week.

Chris

Upcoming Deadlines

- **2007 Homeless Education Poster Contest** – Registration Deadline – October 11, 2007
- **Thomas Lay Burroughs Award Nominations** – October 12, 2007
- **Application for Recognition of Schools (ARS)** – Applications to ISBE from ROE offices – October 15, 2007
- **2007-08 Teacher Salary Study data** – October 18, 2007
- **FY07 NCLB Performance Report** – October 19, 2007
- **Supplemental General State Aid Expenditure Plans** – October 30, 2007
- **Adopted School District Budgets Due Electronically** – October 30, 2007
- **2007-08 Fall Housing/Enrollment Report (87-03)** – October 31, 2007
- **Unfilled Positions Survey (87-07)** – November 15, 2007
- **Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet - Section 17-1.5** – November 15, 2007
- **2007-2008 Health & Immunization Data Collection** – November 15, 2007
- **NCLB FY08 Title I Comparability analysis** – November 30, 2007
- **NCLB FY08 Monitoring Instrument** – November 30, 2007
- **Nonpublic Registration, Enrollment and Staff Report (87-01)** – December 31, 2007
- **Waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly in Spring 2008** – January 11, 2008

Accountability

**Charter School Informational Workshops
Scheduled**

If you are interested in developing a charter school proposal or simply curious about the specifics of charter schools, please attend one of these brief workshops. Four workshops will be conducted this fall at the following locations.

October 24 – Moline – Holiday Inn Convention Center
November 2 – Bourbonnais – Holiday Inn Express
November 7 – Fairview Heights – Four Points Sheraton
November 14 – Morton – Best Western Ashland House

All educators, potential charter school developers, parents, and the general public are invited to attend. An overview of the charter school law and available charter school grant information will be covered. The workshops are free of charge. Registration is not required but appreciated.

The schedule of workshops is also available online at <http://www.isbe.net/charter/Default.htm>.

For more information, to register, or if there are charter school questions, please contact either **Richard Loman** or **Jo Ann Price** in the Accountability Division at 217-782-2948 or by e-mail at rloman@isbe.net or jprice@isbe.net.

PA 95-0349 Bullying Prevention Education

The General Assembly recently passed Public Act 95-0349, which deals with bullying prevention education.

This bill requires each school district to create, maintain and file a policy on bullying with the State Board of Education beginning 180 days after the effective date of the amendatory Act. The bill was signed by the Governor on August 23, 2007. Each school district must communicate its policy on bullying to its students and their parent or guardian on an annual basis. The policy must be updated and then filed every 2 years with ISBE.

The full text of House Bill 18 can be found online at: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?na=095-0349&GA=95&SessionId=51&DocTypeld=HB&DocMu=18&GAID=9&Session>.

Please send your district policy to:
 Henri Fonville
 Accountability Division
 Illinois State Board of Education,
 100 N. First Street

Springfield, IL 62777

If you have questions regarding this requirement, please contact **Lynne Robinson**, Accountability Division, at 217-782-2948 or by e-mail at mrobinso@isbe.net.

Physical Education Exemption Report

105 ILCS 5/2-3.97 of the School Code requires the State Board of Education to submit a physical education exemption report for high school students to the Illinois General Assembly and Governor on or before January 30th of every odd-numbered year for the immediately preceding school year ending on June 30. This report is to include the general nature and manner of operation of the individual physical education exemptions granted by each local board of education for public high school students in grades 9-12 as per 105 ILCS 5/27-6. Please keep your district statistics for these individual physical education exemptions.

We will be disseminating an electronic form in the near future for your use in documenting this information by **June 30, 2008**, to the State Board of Education. If you have questions regarding this, please contact **Lynne Robinson**, Accountability Division, at 217-782-2948 or by e-mail at mrobinso@isbe.net.

Regional Superintendent's Summary Report on Recognition for 2007-2008 now available

The Regional Superintendent's Summary Report on Recognition for 2007-2008 is now available for your use. This form is used to report the recommended recognition status for each school and district in your region.

If districts or schools are recommended for less than full recognition for any reason, it should be recorded on this form. Please supply a specific reason for the downgraded recognition status in the space provided. The information from the ROE Summary Report along with the 2007-2008 Applications for Recognition, compliance visit information, and information supplied by other divisions within ISBE will be used in determining the final recognition status for each school district.

This form is due to the Accountability Division by **October 15, 2007**, and can be found on the Accountability Division's web pages under the *Public School Compliance* link at www.isbe.net/accountability.

This form can be completed online but will need to be printed, signed and mailed to ISBE. The mailing address is on the top of the form.

Please contact **Lynne Robinson** or **Henri Fonville**, Accountability Division, at 217-782-2948 should you have any questions or concerns.

School Business & Support Services

Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet

School districts must submit the completed **Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet - Section 17-1.5** to the Illinois State Board of Education's School Business & Support Services Division by **November 15**. The Illinois School Code requires school districts to limit the growth of "administrative" expenditures to a maximum of five percent from one fiscal year to the next. The provisions of Section 17-1.5 took effect July 1998.

School districts with administrative expenditures per pupil in the 25th percentile or below (4th quartile) that wish to waive the administrative cap by a school board resolution must:

1. Publish notice of a public hearing
2. Conduct a public hearing
3. Have an appropriate waiver resolution approved by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the school board
4. File a copy of such resolution with the State Board of Education within 45 days of approval

The Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet, quartile rankings for all school districts, and a sample waiver resolution for qualifying districts can be accessed at: www.isbe.net/sfms/AdminCaps/AdminCaps.htm

Additionally, the Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet is included in the Illinois School District **Annual Financial Report – June 30, 2007 (ISBE 50-35)**.

Submitted Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheets will be verified to the district's submitted School District Budget Form July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008 (ISBE 50-36) and the district's submitted Annual Financial Report – June 30, 2007 (ISBE 50-35).

Inaccurate Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheets will be returned to districts for correction.

If you have any questions, contact **Michelle Heninger**, School Business & Support Services Division, at 217-785-8779 or by e-mail at mheninge@isbe.net.

Data Analysis & Progress Reporting

2007-2008 Health & Immunization Data Collection

The Student Health Data (Immunization) system will be opened for data entry on October 16. The data must be submitted online using ISBE web portal IWAS. The deadline to submit the data is **November 15**.

The web links for important documents are listed below:

- Data Entry Worksheet
http://www.isbe.net/research/xls/immunization_worksheet.xls
- How to calculate actual unduplicated count
<http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/UnduplicatedCount.pdf>

Please share this information with the school nurse or health technician and those submitting the Health/Immunization data to ISBE. Questions may be addressed to **Shafiqul Azam**, Data Analysis & Progress Reporting Division, at 217-782-3950 or by e-mail at mazam@isbe.net.

Nonpublic Registration, Enrollment and Staff Report Now Available Through IWAS

The 2007-08 Nonpublic Registration, Enrollment and Staff Report (87-01) is available by IWAS at <https://sec1.isbe.net/iwas> and must be received by ISBE by **December 31**.

Nonpublic schools that have registered with ISBE at least once in the past must submit the data online using the ISBE web portal IWAS. Nonpublic schools that have never registered with ISBE must submit their data by using the paper form 87-01 that is available at the following address: http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/87-01_np_report.pdf.

Public district administrators should communicate with administrators of nonpublic schools within their district boundary and encourage them to submit registration, enrollment and staff data. A portion of the public district funding allocation calculated for the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) utilizes nonpublic enrollment data that is voluntarily reported from nonprofit elementary and secondary schools.

Funding & Disbursements

Important School Transportation Issues

2006-07 Annual Claim for Pupil Transportation Reimbursement – Correction Period Open

All local education entities who transmitted a 2006-2007 Annual Claim for Pupil Transportation Reimbursement by the Pupil Transportation Claim Reimbursement System (PTCRS) in IWAS are hereby notified that the review and amendment (if needed) process is now open and will end at midnight on **Friday, November 9**. All revisions to the Pupil Transportation Reimbursement Claim must be completed and transmitted on or before November 9. No revisions will be accepted after November 9 in order to close the claim file and schedule the three remaining quarterly payments.

Instructions for REVIEWING the claim

1. Log into the ISBE Web Application Security system.
2. Click on "System Listing" on the IWAS homepage.
3. Select "Pupil Transportation Claim Reimbursement System" under the "Annual Claims" heading.
4. Click on "**Review Claim**" under the "Reimbursement Claim" heading on the homepage.
5. The claim will be loaded to the screen in read-only format. Carefully review each line on the claim for possible revisions. If you entered transportation assets on the Depreciation Schedule, don't forget to click on the "Depreciation Schedule" button at the bottom of the screen and review the depreciation schedule data for possible revisions

Do not click on the "Revise Claim" button unless you need to make revisions.

If you do not have any revisions, you do not need to do anything. Your claim will remain as originally submitted by the statutory August 15 due date.

Instructions for REVISING the claim

If you have reviewed the claim and found that revisions are needed to the depreciation schedule and/or the pupil transportation reimbursement claim:

1. Click on the "Revise Claim" link under the "Reimbursement Claim" heading on the homepage.
2. You may enter notes in the "Your Comments" text box to help you remember why revisions were needed. Click on the "Revise Claim" button at the bottom of the screen to proceed with revisions to the depreciation schedule (if needed) and the pupil transportation reimbursement claim.
3. Note that all links for the reimbursement claim are open and may be revised as needed. The "Depreciation Schedule Summary" link under the "Depreciation Schedule" heading has been changed to "Calculate Depreciation Allowance." If you made any changes to transportation assets after the August submit date, you must click on this link and update the Depreciation Schedule.
4. After all revisions have been made, click on the "Review & Submit Claim." All revised claims must be resubmitted to ISBE through the proper channels (Document Author to the District Superintendent and District Superintendent to ISBE.)

No revisions to the claim will be accepted after Friday, November 9.

If you have questions, contact **Jamie Johnson**, Funding & Disbursements Division, 217-782-5256 or by e-mail at jjohnson@isbe.net.

New School Bus Transportation Laws

The Illinois Department of Transportation has issued a letter to all Illinois School Bus operators regarding new laws that impact school bus transportation. Many laws went into effect immediately when they were signed in August. Others will go into effect January 1, 2008. Please see the letter from Michael Stout, Director of Traffic Safety, for more details on the new laws, at http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/IDOT_SchBus_Legis_07.pdf.

Please make special note of PA 95-0176 which requires that in addition to having each school bus display a visible sign indicating the owner of the school bus as well as a telephone number to report erratic driving, the owner shall establish procedures for accepting calls and taking complaints. Further, the procedures must include an internal investigation of the events that led to each complaint and a report to the complaining party of the results of the investigation and the action taken, if any.

Questions can be directed to **Tony Klasing**, Division of Traffic Safety, at 217-782-1606.

Reporting Accidents – School Bus

Section 1035.45 of the Illinois Administrative Code - Employer Responsibility states that an employer must notify the Secretary of State as soon as possible, but not later than one (1) business day, whenever a school bus is involved in an accident and the driver is required to submit to the post-accident requirements as set forth in 49 C.F.R. 382.303 Post-accident testing. A completed Employer Notification Report (DSD SB-3.3) should be faxed to the Secretary of State to meet this requirement. The following criteria should be used to help you determine when to contact our office to report an accident.

1. If there is a human fatality as a result of the accident; or,
2. If there is bodily injury to one or more persons requiring transportation to a medical facility AND the school bus driver involved is issued a traffic citation; or,
3. One or more vehicles must be towed from the scene of the accident AND the school bus driver involved is issued a traffic citation.

It is recommended that you use the following School Bus Accident Report Form which can be accessed at http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/50-26_school_bus_accident.pdf. You can complete the form online, which can then be printed for notification to the Secretary of State as well as to other applicable parties. You should also be prepared to fax copies of the driver's latest medical form and refresher training certificate to the Secretary of State at 217-524-3654.

Fee Changes – School Bus Driver Background Check

Effective October 1, 2007, the cost for electronic submission of fingerprints for an FBI criminal history record for school bus drivers will change. The current cost is \$24. The new cost will be \$19.25.

School Vehicle Use Guidance Document

Please click on the following link at http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/school_vehicle_guidance.pdf to access guidance on the allowable use of school vehicles for pupil transportation purposes. The guidance includes information on distinguishing types of transportation routes, types of vehicles used for pupil transportation including school buses, multi-function (white) activity buses and 15 passenger vans. The guidance also provides information regarding proper licensure for drivers of school vehicles and claimable cost on the Annual Pupil Transportation Reimbursement Claim.

If you have questions regarding the guidance, please contact **Cinda Meneghetti**, Funding & Disbursements Division, at 217-782-5256 or by e-mail at cmeneghe@isbe.net. If you have questions regarding the claimable cost for vehicles and other costs reported on the Annual Pupil Transportation Reimbursement Claim, please contact **Jamie Johnson**, Funding & Disbursements Division, at 217-782-5256 or by e-mail at jjohnson@isbe.net.

Eating on a School Bus

The Illinois State Board of Education highly recommends that all districts adopt a policy of *No Eating on a School Bus*. This includes the school bus driver. The primary responsibility of the school bus driver is to transport children to and from school, between attendance centers or on extra-curricular or interscholastic trips safely. To do that, the driver must keep his/her eyes on the road, mindful of the movement of traffic around the school bus. The driver also has responsibility to control the conduct of the students on the bus. The close-spaced, high seat backs prevent the driver from seeing all of the activities of the students on the bus, including eating. Depending on the circumstances, the driver may not be able to reach a child in time to prevent the child from choking to death. Coaches or other teachers or chaperones on extra-curricular trips are not necessarily certified to administer first aid in an emergency. The driver is ultimately responsible for what happens on the school bus. If students are on a trip and eating is scheduled on the way,

the bus must be stopped long enough for students to safely eat and the bus to be cleaned of trash.

Governmental Relations

Update on General Assembly & Legislation

The General Assembly is in Springfield for the fall Veto Session. In addition to acting upon vetoed legislation, it is also considering several new bills related to education. The Governmental Relations webpage has an updated list of education-relevant legislation being considered before the General Assembly at http://www.isbe.net/gov_relations/default.htm.

In addition, an updated list of legislation that passed the General Assembly during the spring session is available on the same page by clicking on the link “2007 Passed Legislation – Preliminary Report.” For any questions, please contact **Nicole Wills**, Governmental Relations Division, at 217-782-6510 or by e-mail at nwills@isbe.net.

Legal

PA95-0241 Third Party Contractual Services

Public Act 095–0241, signed by Governor Blagojevich on August 17, 2007, outlines additional requirements for school districts that choose to contract with a third party for non-instructional services. If your school district employs staff to perform various services such as, but not limited to, school meal service-related tasks, custodial services, and/or pupil transportation services, and the school district wishes to consider contracting those services out to a third party contractor, the school district is required to implement a number of new procedures as part of the contract solicitation and award process.

A summary of the new requirements can be accessed at http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/pdf/Third_Party_Contracting.pdf.

Federal Grants & Programs

FY07 NCLB Performance Report

The FY07 NCLB Performance Report is now ready to receive data. Every district that receives funds for Titles I, IIA, and IVA must complete this report prior to **October 19**. The information that districts supply

through this report must be forwarded to the United States Department of Education for funds to continue to flow to these NCLB Programs.

The FY07 NCLB Performance Report is located in the IWAS system on the ISBE web site. If you have questions or need help, please call **Gail Buoy**, Federal Grants and Programs Division, at 217-524-4832.

Rules & Waivers

Invitation to Comment on Rules

Three sets of proposed rules recently reviewed by the State Board of Education are currently available for public comment. These items have been posted on the agency’s web site at www.isbe.net/rules; choose “Proposed Rules and Amendments.” Please submit any comments or suggestions you may have to rules@isbe.net.

Part 25 (Certification)

Updates and clarifications to multiple unrelated provisions; new provisions for the “Master Principal” designation.

Part 232 (Summer Bridges Program)

Updates intended to strengthen the implementation of the program.

Part 675 (Providers of Supplemental Educational Services)

Revisions to the code of ethics and the approval cycle. Requirements for tutors, criminal background checks, and approval of parent notification letters. Clarifications to the requirements for reports prepared by CPAs.

Deadline for Public Comment: November 19, 2007

Notice of Completed Rulemaking

Please be advised that three more rulemakings recently adopted by the State Board of Education are now in effect. These rules have been posted on the agency’s web site at www.isbe.net/rules; choose “Rules Currently in Effect” and scroll to the relevant Part number. If you print the affected Sections, please be sure to include the table of contents, which changes each time a Part is revised.

Part 35 (Mentoring Program for New Principals)

Ordinary rules to replace the emergency rules for this new program that have been in effect since April.

Affected Sections: All

Effective Date: September 20, 2007

Part 180 (Health/Life Safety Code for Public Schools)

Required qualifications for individuals who review construction plans and conduct inspections.

Incorporation of the 2006 editions of the International Building Code and its subcodes.

Affected Sections: 180.30, 180.50, 180.60, 180.100, 180.110, 180.120, 180.200, 180.220, 180.250, 180.300, 180.330, and 180.340

Effective Date: September 25, 2007

Part 401 (Special Education Facilities Under Section 14-7.02 of the School Code)

Provisions allowing facilities to serve as “testing sites” for the various forms of the state assessment. Additional updates.

Affected Sections: 401.10, 401.20, 401.130, 401.140, 401.145, 401.230, 401.250, and 401.260

Effective Date: September 24, 2007

Nutrition

Bridging the Gap in School Meal Service Procurement

The *Bridging the Gap in School Meal Service Procurement* training is designed to assist school food authorities (SFAs) who contract for meal services with a food service management company or meal vendor in meeting all requirements associated with the Invitation for Bid and Contract process. Attendees will better understand the three-step document submission and review process and receive hands-on training in developing Invitation for Bid and Contract documents that will meet federal and state regulations and statutes.

All SFAs conducting a new procurement for school meal services for the 2008—2009 school year are highly encouraged to attend. SFAs currently self-operating their school meal programs but considering contracting for school meal services should also attend. Attendees **must** be employees of the SFA (school or district). Registration begins at 8 a.m. and training is held from 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Complimentary lunch and beverages provided.

Pre-registration is required. To pre-register, go to <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/workshops/htm>.

December 5: Radisson Hotel – Schaumburg

December 6: Doubletree Hotel – Alsip

December 7: Hawthorn Suites – Champaign

January 25: Hamilton/Jefferson Regional Office of Education #25 – Mount Vernon

Space is still available for HACCP/School Food Safety Plan workshop

If you missed the HACCP workshops held this past summer, you should register for *School Food Safety Plan, Process Approach to Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point Principles Workshop*, to be held **October 30** in Springfield.

Participants will be introduced to the Process Approach to HACCP Principles. The Process Approach allows for a more practical application of food safety procedures.

Participants will receive information and work with hands-on activities they can take back to their schools and immediately use in the development of a food safety plan or revision of a current food safety plan.

The workshop will be held in Springfield, at the Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center, beginning at 9 a.m. and concluding at 3 p.m. Pre-registration is required. To register, visit <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition>. Click on *Workshops/Trainings*, which is located under the *Resources* section on the right side of the page.

Special Education

Timely & Meaningful Consultation with Private Schools

It's now the time of the year when your district should be planning to complete its annual timely and meaningful consultation (“TMC”) with private schools and families of home-schoolers with disabilities. Please remember that this is a requirement for any district that has known home-school students and private school students with disabilities regardless of whether your district has funds to expend on such students. Also, please note the requirement to provide families in your district with a public notice of the TMC requirement even if you do not have any private schools in your district. The specific steps for conducting TMC can be found in our guidance memo located at http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/guidance_06-2.pdf. The affirmation form can be accessed at <http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/pvtschAppA.pdf>.

Please plan on completing your TMC by no later than **October 15** and submitting your documentation of the

TMC by **October 22**. Please contact Special Education Services at 217-782-5589 if you have questions.

2005-2006 District Special Education Profiles Now Available for District Administrative Review

In a continuing effort to disseminate data to local education agencies and to the public the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) will again post District Special Education Profiles on its website. District Special Education Profiles allow the reader to access all special education performance information in one location. The reader has the ability to view a district's progress toward improving results on critical performance indicators in the areas of student performance, educational environment and school completion.

For the next two weeks school district superintendents may preview their Profile using their ISBE Web Application Security (IWAS) District Admin user login name at <https://sec1.isbe.net/iwas/>. The District Special Education Profiles system can be found under the category of Reporting on the IWAS "My Systems" page. The 2005-2006 Profiles will be open to the public after the initial district superintendent review period and will be found by the ISBE eReport Card Public Site (<http://webprod1.isbe.net/ereportcard/publicsite/getSearchCriteria.aspx>) and the ISBE Special Education Profiles site (<http://webprod1.isbe.net/LEAProfile/Searchcriteria1.aspx>) after October 19.

Questions regarding the District Special Education Profiles may be directed to **Scott Beever** or **Gwen Williams**, Special Education, at 217-782-5589. If you need technical assistance accessing the reports, please call our Helpdesk at 217-558-3600.

Indicator 14: Post School Outcomes Survey

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and Indicator 14 of the Illinois State Performance Plan (SPP), Part B for 2005-2010, require the state to collect post secondary outcomes data on students with disabilities one year after leaving school (i.e. students who graduate, dropout, or age out). The Post School Survey, developed by the National Post School Outcomes Center, assesses the outcomes of individuals with disabilities one year after they have exited high school. The Illinois Post

School Survey is a web-based survey process that provides a framework for local districts to collect and analyze the outcomes of former students, and to identify areas of strength and weakness in preparing students for adult life. Former students are contacted for a brief interview to assess the areas of independent living, participation in postsecondary education, and employment.

Additional information regarding the Indicator 14 Post School Survey has recently been posted in the "What's New" section of the ISBE Special Education website at <http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/default.htm>. The two documents posted include an overview of the collection requirements, suggestions districts can use to prepare for successful data collection; and a district cycle of the school years districts will be required to conduct these surveys. Questions regarding the Indicator 14 Post School Outcomes data collection can be directed to **Scott Beever** or **Barbara Sims**, Special Education, at 217-782-5589.

2007 Statewide Transition Conference

The 2007 Statewide Transition Conference will be held **December 2-4** at the Thelma Keller Convention Center in Effingham. The following links pertaining to the conference are available on the ISBE website:

- Conference brochure:
http://www.isbe.net/iicc/pdf/conference_brochure.pdf.
- Conference links:
<http://www.cccmeetings.com/transition.pdf>
- Online registration:
<http://www.peopleware.net/index.cfm?siteCode=2625c&&CFID=11220606&CFTOKEN=89372800>

Questions on the conference should be directed to **Sue Walter** at swalter@isbe.net or 618-651-9028.

Professional Development

School Health Days: Hot Issues in School Health

The Illinois Department of Public Health's Division of Community Health & Prevention is sponsoring a day-long conference this fall entitled 'School Health Days: Hot Issues in School Health.'

The aim of the conference is to familiarize school health personnel with current issues pertinent to:

- Identifying effective resources available to assist their school in meeting each of the mandated requirements of the districts wellness policy
- Vision & hearing screening requirements
- Review new and updated immunization recommendations
- Latest HPV treatment guidelines
- Lead screening requirements
- Dental examination requirements

School nurses, health educators, school counselors, social workers and administrators are encouraged to attend. Continuing Education Credits will be awarded for those who attend the training.

The conference will be at six locations throughout the state this fall. The registration fee is \$50, which includes materials, breakfast and lunch. Each session runs from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Conference locations are:

- **October 30** – Rockford – Radisson
- **October 31** – Arlington Heights – Sheraton Chicago
- **November 6** – Mt. Vernon – Holiday Inn
- **November 8** – Urbana – Holiday Inn
- **November 14** – Peoria – Radisson
- **November 15** – Lisle – Hyatt

For more information, including registration information, contact the IDPH's **School Health Program** at 217-785-4525.

Preparedness for Public Health Emergencies

On **November 5**, the Illinois Department of Public Health will be hosting a meeting related to preparedness for public health emergencies, including an influenza pandemic. With the regular flu season approaching, concerns about a flu pandemic continue to exist.

This meeting will provide key decision makers, including school leaders, with a forum for exchanging information about policy issues pertaining to the implementation of various social distancing measures to contain or slow the progress of a pandemic. The closure of schools in Illinois as a possible containment measure in response to a pandemic will be discussed.

The program will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on November 5 at the Springfield Hilton, 700 E. Adams St. Lunch will be provided. Reservations are required and are due by **October 26**.

For more information, see the IDPH's letter about the event online at http://www.isbe.net/pdf/social_distancing.pdf or visit <http://www.idph.state.il.us/training.htm> for more information.

Illinois Department of Public Health

FY 08 Heartsaver AED Grant Applications

The Illinois Department of Public Health will release the FY 08 Heartsaver AED grant application on Friday, October 12. This is a matching grant program designed to provide funding assistance to certain organizations required by law to have an Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

The grant application and guidance has been posted on the IDPH website at <http://www.idph.state.il.us/ems/>. For more information, contact **Brandy Lane**, IDPH, at 217-558-0560 or brandy.lane@illinois.gov.

Employment Opportunities

ISBE External Vacancy List

An External Vacancy List for the Illinois State Board of Education is available at: <http://www.isbe.net/hr/Default.htm>.

In the News

Weekly news clips

ISBE has posted highlights from last week's education news clips at: <http://www.isbe.net/news/2007/newsclips/071005.htm>.
